CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1439
13 December 1996

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS CONCERNING THE LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY (DOCUMENT CD/1438)

I wish to refer to the letter dated 23 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey which was circulated under reference CD/1438 of 25 November 1996 and to state the following:

The Turkish Permanent Representative while transmitting a letter by the Leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mr. Denktas, attributes to him titles that are not accepted by anyone.

The so-called "TRNC" is an illegal entity created and maintained by the Turkish invasion and continuing occupation of part of the territory of Cyprus.

The purported declaration of "TRNC" has been condemned by the international community, all international organizations and more specifically by resolutions of the Security Council, No. 541/1983 and No. 550/1984 which, inter alia, called upon all States and international organizations not to recognize or facilitate in any way this secessionist entity. The position of the international community is consistent with the norms of International Law which do not condone or accept faits-accomplis created by the use of force, in accordance with the legal norm "ex injuria lex non oritur".

As to the contents of the letter, it is obvious that Mr. Denktas repeats, once more, his far-fetched misconceptions about past developments in Cyprus, which have long been repudiated and are inconsistent with facts and reality.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus, recognized by all States, except the occupying power, and by all international organizations is a positive factor and actor in the international scene with a contribution far exceeding its size. The Republic of Cyprus, by its application to participate as a full member in the Conference on Disarmament, expresses its will to contribute positively to the work of the Conference in accordance with its long held position of support for general and complete disarmament. A specific expression of this position is the proposal of the President of the Republic of Cyprus H.E. Mr. Glafkos Clerides for the demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus.

GE.96-64741 (E)

The Cyprus Government contrary to the schemes of Turkey, is recognized as the representative of the people of Cyprus as a whole. Moreover in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and international law the Republic of Cyprus has sovereignty over the whole of its territory, a fact that cannot be changed by the presence of the Turkish occupation troops.

Mr. Denktas instead of being an obstructionist force to the solution of the Cyprus problem should abandon his negative stance and cooperate in good faith towards finding a just and functional settlement of the Cyprus problem, based on United Nations Resolutions. It is widely recognized that this settlement, which would bring about peace and prosperity to the people of Cyprus is undermined as a result of the Turkish attitude. In this respect, let me cite paragraph 53 of the Report of the Secretary General of the United Nations of 30 May 1994 (Doc. 5.19.94.629): "For the present, the Security Council finds itself faced with an already familiar scenario: the absence of agreement due essentially to a lack of political will on the Turkish Cypriot side".

I should be grateful if this letter could be distributed among all member delegations of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed): Sotos Zackheos
Ambassador
Permanent Representative